

Serial No. 09/726,009

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Page 2 of 15

**Section I:**  
**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121 to the**  
**CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (currently amended):

A sales offering method for restricting access by traders to collected online sealed bids in an online offering and bidding system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer-readable bid repository of collected ~~sealed bids and~~  
~~unsealed bids~~ communicative to an online offering and bidding system, said collected  
bids each having an associated seal status indication field;

querying said bid repository for bids which match parameters of a Broker Profile  
Matrix associated with a trader and which are indicated as being unsealed by said seal  
status indication field, said trader representing a intermediary third party between a bidder  
and a offeror; and

~~unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted~~  
~~process; and~~

presenting via a computer user interface said unsealed bids to ~~[[a]]~~ said trader  
thereby preventing presentation of bids which are sealed to traders.

Claim 2 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a computer-readable bid repository comprises providing a computer database in which each sealed bid and unsealed bid are represented by one or more database records.

Claim 3 (original):

The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of providing database records representing sealed bids and unsealed bids comprises providing database records which include a field indicating a bid status as sealed or unsealed.

Serial No. 09/726,009Leland James WiesehuegelPage 3 of 15**Claim 4 (original):**

The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of providing database records representing sealed bids and unsealed bids comprises providing database records which include a field indicating a bid seal expiration time.

**Claim 5 (original):**

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process comprises providing a secure system administrator console and identification process which allows only an authorized system administrator to change sealed bids to unsealed bids.

**Claim 6 (original):**

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process comprises:

- providing a bid seal expiration time parameter with each sealed bids;
- providing a system clock or timer;
- comparing each bid seal expiration time parameter with a current status of a system clock or timer responsive; and
- determining that bids for which bid seal expiration time parameters which are before or less than the current status of a system clock or timer are unsealed bids.

Serial No. 09/726,009

Leland James Wieschuegel

Page 4 of 15

## Claim 7 (currently amended):

A computer-readable medium containing program code for a sales offering computer system for restricting access by traders to collected online sealed bids in an online offering and bidding system, said program code when executed by a sales offering computer system causes the sales offering computer system to perform the steps of:

providing a computer-readable bid repository of collected ~~sealed bids and unsealed bids~~ communicative to an online offering and bidding system, said collected bids each having an associated seal status indication field;

querying said bid repository for bids which match parameters of a Broker Profile Matrix associated with a trader and which are indicated as being unsealed by said seal status indication field, said trader representing a intermediary third party between a bidder and a offeror; and

~~unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process; and~~

presenting via a computer user interface said unsealed bids to ~~[[a]]~~ said trader thereby preventing presentation of bids which are sealed to traders.

## Claim 8 (original):

The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 7 wherein said program code for providing a computer-readable bid repository comprises program code for providing a computer database in which each sealed bid and unsealed bid are represented by one or more database records.

## Claim 9 (original):

The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 8 wherein said program code for providing database records representing sealed bids and unsealed bids comprises program code for providing database records which include a field indicating a bid status as sealed or unsealed.

Serial No. 09/726,009Leland James WieseuegelPage 5 of 15**Claim 10 (original):**

The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 8 wherein said program code for providing database records representing sealed bids and unsealed bids comprises program code for providing database records which include a field indicating a bid seal expiration time.

**Claim 11 (original):**

The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 7 wherein said program code for unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process comprises program code for providing a secure system administrator console and identification process which allows only an authorized system administrator to change sealed bids to unsealed bids.

**Claim 12 (original):**

The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 7 wherein said program code for unsealing one or more sealed bids in said bid repository through a restricted process comprises program code for causing the sales offering computer system to perform the steps of:

- providing a bid seal expiration time parameter with each sealed bids;
- accessing or reading a system clock or timer;
- comparing each bid seal expiration time parameter with a current status of a system clock or timer responsive; and
- determining that bids for which bid seal expiration time parameters which are before or less than the current status of a system clock or timer are unsealed bids.

Serial No. 09/726,009

Leland James Wieschuegel

Page 6 of 15

## Claim 13 (currently amended):

A sealed bid sales offering system in a computer network, said computer network enabling communications between said sales offering system and trader consoles, said offering system comprising:

a bid database containing ~~collected sealed bids and unsealed bids~~, said database being accessible and queriable by said sales offering system, said collected bids each having an associated seal status indication field;

a database query server communicative to said bid database for ~~querying and retrieving unsealed bids from said bid database for presentation to a trader which meet criteria indicating the bids are unsealed and intended for a trader~~ querying said bid repository for bids which match parameters of a Broker Profile Matrix associated with a trader and which are indicated as being unsealed by said seal status indication field, said trader representing a intermediary third party between a bidder and a offeror; and

an bid communicator for presenting said ~~retrieved~~ queried unsealed bids to ~~[[a]]~~ said trader thereby preventing presentation of sealed bids to a trader.

## Claim 14 (original):

The sealed bid sales offering system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said sales offering system is a computer network server.

## Claim 15 (original):

The sealed bid sales offering system as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said computer network server is an Internet server.

## Claim 16 (original):

The sealed bid sales offering system as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said computer network server is a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) server.

Serial No. 09/726,009Leland James WieschuegelPage 7 of 15**Claim 17 (original):**

The sealed bid sales offering system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said sales offering system is adapted for communications with trader console computers which are web browser devices.

**Claim 18 (original):**

The system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said database query server is adapted to retrieve unsealed bids from said bid database for presentation to a trader which meet criteria including a match with a trader's location code.

**Claim 19 (original):**

The system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said database query server is adapted to retrieve unsealed bids from said bid database for presentation to a trader which meet criteria including a match with a trader's goods category code.

**Claim 20 (original):**

The system as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising a restricted access administrator console communicative with said bid database for allowing conversion of sealed bids to unsealed bids.

**Claim 21 (original):**

The system as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising a system clock or timer for use by said database query server communicative to determine which seals of sealed bids have expired as a criteria for retrieving unsealed bids